



2006
AF

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1773**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shuichi OKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1773

Application No.: 10/721,418

Examiner: H. RICKMAN

Filed: November 26, 2003

Docket No.: 117761

For: MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM AND MAGNETIC RECORDING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the March 28, 2006 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-6, 10-15 and 19-22 are pending in this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 19-22 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bertero et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,660,930). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Bertero fails to disclose or suggest a magnetic recording medium that includes a seed layer, a magnetic recording layer formed on the seed layer and having a plurality of laminated layers and a noble metal layer between the laminated layers, wherein a relational expression $0 < Y/X \leq 1.0$ is satisfied, where X is thickness of said seed layer, and Y is